



II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

(Shelbyville Central Schools)

The critical learning needs will be addressed if awarded the Learning Technology Competitive Grant. Based on survey results, ISTEP scores, and data from Core 40, graduation rates, discipline referrals, and attendance, it has become apparent that our current instructional methodology is not adequately preparing our students for an increasingly competitive global economy. Thorough analysis of standardized test scores has determined essential areas for improvement. Identified student learning needs include the ability to:

- Process and synthesize information in all content areas.
- Read critically.

Discovering emerging technology and its benefits to classroom instruction means educating the digital age learner and educator. First and foremost, this grant initiative would allow us to provide the necessary professional development to teach and inspire educators to foster innovative thinking through the use of technology. The following GOALS will be accomplished through the incorporation of technology literacy for both teachers and students.

To provide the highest quality of 21st Century instruction, teachers will

- Develop students' critical thinking skills through technology based instruction.
- Utilize Blogs, Wikis, and emails to enhance collaboration and communication skills.
- Facilitate the appropriate and ethical use of technology for students' personal and professional growth.
- Engage students through a variety of multi media experiences to promote global awareness.
- Create an environment where learning outcomes that are not pre-determined or fully predictable.

In order for teachers to provide a technology rich learning environment, the professional development action plan will include the following:

- Partnership with IUPUI for ongoing staff development. This important partnership will allow teachers to learn best practices based on the most current research.
- Release time for teachers to collaborate across disciplines.
- Opportunities to align technology usage between the middle and high school staff.
- Site visitations and outside professional development opportunities.

Because of the corporation's diverse student body and the growing number of students living in poverty, another component of this grant will be to provide access to technology for under privileged populations.

(St. Joseph)

Students are struggling with the mechanics of phonics and reading comprehension. The program that will be utilized-My Reading Coach-will assist in closing the gap created by those students who have difficulty reading and writing. This program puts the emphasis on teaching children in elementary schools to read, so that they are prepared to move forward with their education and build a strong foundation for learning. My Reading Coach will fill the gaps that struggling readers face.